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Letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

The mandate of my Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, Berhanu Dinka, will be expiring on 31 December 2001. As members of the Security Council are aware, Mr. Dinka has been soliciting the views of countries in the region regarding the proposed organization of an International Conference on the Great Lakes; representing me at meetings and deliberations under the Arusha peace process on Burundi; and addressing the regional dimensions of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through, among others, close interaction with my Special Representative in that country.

Opinion seems to be gaining within and outside Africa that the time to intensify efforts for the proposed International Conference on the Great Lakes is fast approaching. I have transmitted to the leaders of the region a concept paper prepared by Mr. Dinka on the organization of the conference and have sought their views and comments on it. I have asked Mr. Dinka to consult with the leaders on the matter and to submit to me his assessment and proposals on the way to proceed.

It is my intention to extend the mandate of my Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region until 31 December 2002. I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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